

Book Reviews

MORPHIUM ALS HEILSMITTEL. By Professor D. O. Rosenbach of Berlin. Fischer's Medicin. Buchhandlung, H. Kornfeld, Berlin.

In this brochure, about 100 pages, Dr. Rosenbach points out the general principles of therapy which should guide one in the use of various narcotic remedies, particularly morphine.

He discusses euthanasia, the value of morphine in organic heart diseases, its tonic properties, its use in nervous disorders, in febrile conditions, in pneumonia and congestive pulmonary states, cough, phthisis, hemoptysis, uremia, and finally the dangers of the development of the habit.

There is some doubtful pharmacology in the author's statements. He apparently has not followed this branch of work. There is also a general air of positivism and a dogmatic form of expression which makes an unpleasant impression on the reviewer, but there are many points of interest and of value in the work. There is little very new, and what is new, if we may be permitted to quote, is not always true, yet all in all, the dissertation may be said to be worth while. JELLIFFE.

THE PRACTICAL MEDICINE SERIES OF YEAR BOOKS. Edited by Gustavus P. Head, M.D. Volume VIII, *Materia Medica and Therapeutics, Preventive Medicine, Climatology, Suggestive Therapeutics, Forensic Medicine.* Edited by George F. Butler, Ph.G., M.D.; Henry B. Favill, A.B., M.D.; Norman Bridge, A.M., M.D.; Daniel R. Brower, M.D.; Harold N. Moyer, M.D. Volume IX, *Physiology, Pathology, Bacteriology, Anatomy, Dictionary.* Edited by W. A. Evans, M.S., M.D.; Adolph Gehrmann, M.D.; William Healy, A.B., M.D. Volume X, *Skin and Venereal Diseases, Nervous and Mental Diseases.* Edited by W. L. Baum, M.D., and Hugh T. Patrick, M.D. The Year Book Publishers, Chicago.

The sub-titles of these volumes indicate with sufficient clearness the field covered, and the names of their editors vouch for the value of the matter offered. They make an excellent and suggestive record of medical progress, and the arrangement and presentation are admirable.

RAILWAY AND OTHER ACCIDENTS WITH RELATION TO INJURY AND DISEASE OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM. By Allan McLane Hamilton, M.D., F.R.S.E., Late Clinical Professor of Mental Disease in Cornell Medical College. William Wood and Co., New York.

With modern methods of flying through space so highly specialized, the need of works of this kind is obvious. Barring the excellent treatise by Bailey, no general work on this special subject has of late years been offered to the professional public. The present work is very commendable.

We cannot call it a treatise which is thoroughly modern, nor do we follow the author throughout in his point of view, but as the expression of personal experience it is a valuable addition to the store of knowledge on this subject. In some parts we feel that we cannot subscribe to all the author's statements. Thus we believe that it is bad policy to admit a traumatic element as directly causative of paresis. Still, the author's point of view is conservative in the main. As for locomotor ataxia, the opening sentence is very far from being clear. It concerns itself largely with a distinction without a difference, especially in these days when locomotor ataxia and tabes dorsalis are synonymous terms.

The chapter on spinal cord injuries is by no means complete, the symptomatology in particular being very fragmentary. Peripheral nerve

injuries are treated at length and this chapter is very useful. The most interesting part of the book concerns the question of the legal aspects, and on this account the chapters on fraud and prognosis in relation to the verdict will be read with considerable interest. GOODALE.

TEXT-BOOK OF INSANITY. Based on Clinical Observations, for Practitioners and Students of Medicine. By Dr. R. von Krafft-Ebing, Late Professor of Psychiatry and Nervous Diseases in the University of Vienna. Authorized Translation from the last German Edition, by Charles Gilbert Chaddock, M.D., Professor of Diseases of the Nervous System in the Marion Sims-Beaumont College of Medicine, Medical Department of St. Louis University, St. Louis, Mo. With an Introduction by Frederick Peterson, M.D., President of the New York State Commission in Lunacy. F. A. Davis Company, Philadelphia.

Probably to the average doctor the name of Krafft-Ebing is somewhat unsavory, since it has been associated with the book "Psychopathia Sexualis." That work was a masterly study of some low forms of life that encumber the nets of a specialist. It was, doubtless, the fault of publishers and book agents that it got into the hands of many who could see in it only the slime adhering to the scientist's specimens.

This text-book of insanity is a different thing—the *magnum opus* of a great specialist in mental disease. The first edition appeared in 1879; the last in 1903.

The period before 1879 was one of analysis—of psychological dissection. Krafft-Ebing studied minutely the mental processes in his patients and classified them accordingly. This led him to recognize under the term "combined psychoses" (p. 203, translation) those remarkable cases, by no means rare, in which one form of insanity complicates another; paresis, for example, supervening in epilepsy. It also led him to describe nine types of epileptic insanity and ten forms of paranoia.

The period of synthesis was beginning in the work of Kahlbaum on Hebephrenia and Katatonia, but Krafft-Ebing's mission was not for it. The 1903 German edition contains (pp. 370-377) a fair account of Dementia Præcox in its three forms; but this is like a foreign body in Krafft-Ebing's book; there is no shifting of his views on melancholia and mania to make room, as Kraepelin does, for the newer conception. The translation contains nothing on Dementia Præcox.

This text-book is an anatomy of insanity—a fine dissection of the subject—especially valuable to the reader who has had narrow clinical opportunities, or who is in the dissecting stage of his own development. The encyclopedic descriptions of mental states associated with bodily diseases (pp. 167-198) are scarcely equalled elsewhere, even the polynuritic (Korsakoff's) psychosis being included (contrary to the statement of a reviewer in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*), although the translator has unaccountably abridged the section (p. 178 in the English, p. 179 in the German) on this disease, so that the most interesting symptom ("fabrication") is not mentioned.

But much of psychiatry has undergone re-solution and re-combination; new forms, such as dementia præcox, have crystallized out of it; certain old forms, like mania and melancholia, have been made smaller and more clean-cut; many symptomatic states have fused, under the heads of delirium, confusion and stupor; and Krafft-Ebing's propensity for psychologic explanation is not in favor. For Kraepelin is king now, as Krafft-Ebing was twenty years ago.